

Most recently, last week I was honored to award Chief Wright with a commendation from Congress for his work, and I was also able to watch and witness some of the less-than-lethal work that the Summerville Police Department is doing with the BolaWrap during that time.

Chief Wright exemplifies service in the Lowcountry in South Carolina's First Congressional District.

A NOTABLE RESCUE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and highlight a notable rescue that took place off the coast of South Carolina's First Congressional District.

Many of us in the Lowcountry took for granted tropical storm Elsa when it hit our shores.

On July 7, as Elsa was beginning to strengthen at the beginning of this season's hurricane season, a family of six was visiting the Lowcountry from West Virginia. They were caught in 6-foot waves north of St. Helena.

That afternoon, the family had sailed their 21-foot Carolina skiff to tiny Otter Island from Edisto Beach.

As the weather worsened and the wind picked up, the boat drifted off the island into stormy waters.

Unfortunately, there was no SOS system available to the family, and the father actually decided to jump in the water and swim out for help after spotting a shrimp boat. The emergency was radioed in, and Skipper Clay Emminger of Beaufort Water Search and Rescue answered the call of duty.

Ultimately, the Coast Guard was able to reach the family, despite deteriorating visibility, and a woman and four female children were hoisted to safety in a Dolphin helicopter.

I am pleased this family was rescued, and I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, and South Carolina's Department of Natural Resource.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING GREGG RUSSELL

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts and talents of Hilton Head's very own folk musician and, indeed, a South Carolina legend by the name of Gregg Russell.

For 40 years, Gregg has highlighted and delighted families around the Old Liberty Tree at Harbor Town in Hilton Head Island.

While these days Gregg is singing songs for families and children, he shared the stage with many celebrities over the years. He even wrote the hit song, "Come Away Home" about Hilton Head Island, which inspired the movie of the same name.

His performances are renowned to locals and tourists alike who visit Hilton Head Island, and he has received a nomination for an Angel Award and won Best Children's Live Action Video in 2000.

Gregg doesn't just contribute with his music to our community, through

his charity, Hilton Head Heroes, Gregg and his wife, Wendy, provide needy and sick children every year with a vacation to Hilton Head Island as well.

On Gregg's 40th year anniversary—and it actually might be a few more than that—I am happy to draw attention to his career here on the House floor and thank him for everything he has done for the Hilton Head Island community.

PFAS ACTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the PFAS Action Act, a bill that I am proud to cosponsor and that will address a critically important issue in my district and across the country, PFAS contamination.

This bill will take bold action to address PFAS contamination and it contains a number of provisions in particular that will affect our smallest communities; and I want to share those today.

From the very early days when I became a Member of Congress, one of the issues that my residents were talking about more than anything else was the need to access clean water. In particular, Michiganders are concerned about increasing levels of PFAS and other toxic chemicals that we are continuing to find in our drinking water.

In Michigan, water is our identity. We are the home of the Great Lakes, and protecting our water and our waters is one of the most bipartisan issues you will find in the State of Michigan.

I have always believed that environmental security is homeland security, because it is about the safety and security of our kids and the preservation of our way of life in Michigan.

If you can't take your grandchildren fishing in the lakes you grew up on, or can't safely hand your child a glass of water without knowing they might get a learning disability, that is a threat to your family.

We have kicked the can down the road long enough when it comes to finally addressing the PFAS issue, and I am happy to stand here today to fight for a bill that will make a real difference in people's lives when it comes to clean water.

Today, the House is going to vote on several amendments that I drafted and introduced and come directly from on-the-ground conversations I have had with residents in my district. Here is a story for you:

In Michigan, roughly 25 percent of our households get our water from private wells, including myself and my family farm. And even though there is a great deal of public reporting on PFAS contamination in our public water sources, those of us who have private wells do not have a ton of access to best practices, information, how we test.

So back in 2020, I went on a wells and waterways tour in my district and hosted an evening in Davisburg, in Oakland County, right before COVID came to us to talk directly with people who have private wells about how we can make sure that our water is protected, clean, safe, and tested.

The response was overwhelming. We had 150 people on a weekday to talk about how we protect those of us on private wells. Most people do not have the resources, information, or tools they need to get their private wells tested.

These questions led to a bill that I am proud to cosponsor called the Test Your Well Water Act, which ended up being included in the PFAS Action Act. It requires the EPA to set up a website with information for residents on private wells, including how to get your water tested, treatment options, and financial assistance to help homeowners afford the necessary treatment.

I also wrote an amendment to the PFAS Action Act to ensure that this website also contains information about the health risks associated with PFAS. My goal was to create a resource that would be able to answer the questions I received from my constituents a little over a year ago in Davisburg.

The fight to protect safe drinking water for all Michiganders actually starts usually with local advocacy from people in our districts who are directly impacted by that PFAS contamination. This includes people like Stacy Taylor.

Stacy is a resident of my town of Holly, Michigan, and she gets her water directly from a well on her property. When she and her husband started experiencing serious health effects, she suspected there may be PFAS in her water supply.

Stacy conducted intense research on her well and Holly's history, digging through old documents, deeds, and maps to figure out where the problem may lie. When she presented her findings to our office—and she was diligent about coming to find me everywhere I was in the district—we reached out to the State agency that is responsible for testing our water sources in Michigan, and it turns out Stacy was right. There was PFAS in her water supply—in our water supply.

But discovering the contamination isn't the end of the story. We have to make sure that our towns and cities can clean up these chemicals and provide their residents with clean water, even our smallest communities.

Because of Stacy's dogged advocacy and countless other local folks across my district, one of my amendments to the PFAS Action Act will beef up assistance to local and community governments that would otherwise really struggle to pay for PFAS cleanup. The cost can often be prohibitive.

The stories my constituents have shared have helped shape this bill to be more effective and impactful. In the

richest and most powerful country on Earth, we have to have the ability to provide clean water to our citizens. We have to be able to lead healthy lives, and that certainly includes guaranteeing a clean water supply.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY BARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished American and longtime public servant of the people of Southeastern North Carolina as well as the United States Congress.

Billy Barker has served this institution for 24 years, 18 years for former Congressman Mike McIntyre and 6 years with me as agriculture field director.

He also served a number of years for North Carolina's longtime Commissioner of Agriculture, the late Jim Graham. Following more than three decades of serving the citizens of North Carolina, Billy recently retired from his work in public service.

Billy was one of my first hires after I was elected to Congress in 2014. He is a great friend who has been an incredibly valuable source of information for me and many others. The contributions he has made to the agriculture community and our farm families cannot be measured. Sometimes it was help on a pressing issue with USDA; other times, it was just a friendly visit to talk local scuttlebutt and take a break from the stresses on the farm.

It is no exaggeration to say that North Carolina's farm economy wouldn't look the same without Billy's hard work and influence. Through numerous hurricanes and other storms, the COVID-19 pandemic, and every other challenge, Billy Barker has been a constant presence on the ground, providing our farm families and rural communities a steady hand to guide them through recovery and ensuring they have the resources they need.

Without question, the citizens of North Carolina are better off for his service. I wish him a well-deserved retirement and a relaxing and rewarding next chapter of life. I am grateful for his service to the State, and I am proud to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SUTTER, CEO OF NORTH CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend, Bob Sutter, who will be retiring after serving 28 years as the CEO of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association.

Prior to his lifelong career in agriculture, Bob honorably served his country for 2 years in the U.S. Navy

and 5 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve. From there, he worked for the USDA Farm Service Agency, and then later took the helm of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association as its CEO in 1993.

Bob has made countless contributions to the North Carolina agriculture community, everything from the formation of the National Peanut Board, educating the public on health benefits of peanuts, and advocating for research to improve yields. He leaves behind a successful legacy of helping peanut farmers and their families establish and maintain successful farms that support our Nation's abundant food supply.

Bob has also been a leading voice for North Carolina producers when it comes to developing strong national farm policy. His advocacy in the halls of Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, as well as the State legislature and beyond, has been critical to the development and implementation of policies that have helped many of our farmers survive major challenges and succeed—whether they were caused by the weather, trade distortions, or the market.

Bob has had a remarkable career, and on behalf of the agriculture community and the fine citizens of North Carolina, I thank him for his dedicated service to the State and to the many farm families he has represented all these years. I wish him and his wife, Sylvia, the best as they move into their next chapter of life.

HYDE AMENDMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the long-standing Hyde amendment. For nearly 45 years, the Hyde amendment has received support from Republicans and Democrats alike. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understood that no taxpayer money should be used to fund abortion. Every President since Jimmy Carter has signed the Hyde amendment into law, including President Obama.

As a Senator, President Biden was a strong supporter of the amendment. Yet, in his latest budget proposal, he removed Hyde protections that would enable taxpayer funding support for abortions, meaning that tax dollars taken from those who oppose it will now be used for just that. Regardless of where one stands on the issue, it is fundamentally wrong to take taxpayer dollars of someone who is opposed to abortion and use their hard-earned tax dollars to fund the same.

On the question of life itself, the Hyde amendment is credited with saving more than 2.4 million innocent lives from abortions since 1976. It is our moral obligation to fight for and protect the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves, the lives of those who are no different than our own.

I call on my colleagues to pass H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, to stand up for pro-life Americans, preserve the Hyde amendment, and ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortion.

PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I have two unrelated topics that really got me going this morning.

The first is vaccinations. Over 40 percent of Americans are still not vaccinated. I mean, come on, what is going on? We need to wake up, America. We need to get vaccinated.

People are saying, "I want to live free or die." Well, people are living free and other people are dying. We need to get everyone vaccinated. Cases are rising every day. It is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Madam Speaker, 97 percent of hospitalizations are unvaccinated; 99 percent of the COVID deaths are unvaccinated. We need to wake up.

There are people using social media poisoning the American people's minds and jeopardizing their health in the process. We need to work together to convince people that vaccinations are safe and that it makes sense to get vaccinated.

I want to applaud STEVE SCALISE and MITCH MCCONNELL for getting vaccinated and promoting it to the American people. We need everyone in this body to please do the same. You need to get vaccinated, not only for yourself, not only for your family, do it for other families, do it for the country, do it so the economy can stay strong.

Please, get vaccinated.

DACA PROGRAM

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, the second topic I would bring up is the Dreamers; the DACA program.

So many families are living every day with so much stress and anxiety because of their immigration status.

Last week, a Federal judge ruled that DACA must end, causing more anxiety and stress for these families. Congress should fix this. Give a pathway to legalization and citizenship, for Dreamers, for TPS recipients, and for the farm workers and other essential workers that make our country work. This is personal for me.

Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, August 22 of 1921, my father was born in a small medieval village on the mountains of Southern Italy. He immigrated to the United States as a young boy. He was the first kid from the neighborhood to go to college. He fought in World War II as a navigator on a B-24 and got the Distinguished Flying Cross. He came home and went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

□ 1030

My father would always say, "What a country." He went on to live a great American success story. So, like I said, this is personal for me.

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown, the city of Glen Cove, New York. I addressed the growing issue of new immigrants from Central and South America who were gathering on street corners looking for work by creating the